

Firearm Injury Reporting

330.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Investigation of cases involving firearm injuries is important to the State of Wisconsin and the safety of the public. Some causes of firearm injuries may not be readily apparent and some cases differ substantially from what they appeared to be initially. The Department takes firearm injury investigations seriously and therefore employees must conduct thorough and complete investigations.

330.2 INVESTIGATION

All bullet wounds, gunshot wounds, powder burns or any other injury or death resulting from the discharge of any firearm shall be thoroughly investigated by this department upon receipt of any report made pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 29.341 and Wis. Stat. § 29.345 or that otherwise is reported to the Department.

Information or reports received from health care professionals shall also be investigated, but the identity of the reporter shall remain confidential as allowed by law (Wis. Stat. § 255.40).

Employees investigating firearm injuries shall contact a supervisor as soon as reasonably possible to determine if further guidance or additional resources are necessary.

All reports or investigations under this section shall be forwarded by the Records Division to the appropriate county or state agency as required.

330.3 HUNTING INJURIES

If a firearm injury is determined to have been caused by an action connected with hunting, fishing or trapping, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests notification on all such firearms related injuries.

The DNR completes the International Hunter Education Association's Annual Report of Hunting and Hunting Related Incidents for compiling nationwide hunting-related statistics and uses the information provided by local agencies for this purpose. The DNR also uses this information to determine whether to investigate or charge a violation of Wis. Stat. § 29.345, failure to report a firearm-related injury sustained in a hunting, fishing or trapping incident.